

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SS-15 ICA-11 /088 W
-----037007 240706Z /11

R 231354Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2797

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, OAU, ET, SU
SUBJ: RESULTS OF JUNE 19-20 OAU ETHIO-SUDAN AD HOC MEDIATION
COMMISSION MEETING

REF: (A) 77 FREETOWN 4085 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS 2712

SUMMARY: ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) HAS NUDGED FORWARD SLIGHTLY IMPROVED ETHIOPIAN-SUDANESE RELATIONS AND GENERALLY REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA'S POSITION. MEDIATION COMMISSION ADOPTED PUBLICLY INVITATION FOR TWO HEADS OF STATE TO HOLD EARLY SUMMIT, WHICH SIERRA LEONE, AS CHAIRMAN, HAS BEEN URGING PRIVATELY SINCE DEC 1977, LENDING SOME SUPPORT TO SPECULATION THAT NIMEIRY AND MENGISTU WILL MEET DURING KHARTOUM SUMMIT. HOWEVER, BOTH SIDES APPEAR FAR APART ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES INVOLVING ERITREA AND SUDANESE ASSISTANCE TO SECESSIONISTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. AS REPORTED BY ETHIOPIAN MEDIA, RESULTS OF OAU ETHIO-SUDAN AD HOC MEDIATION COMMISSION IN REAFFIRMING PRINCIPLES OF OAU CHARTER AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEC 12-15, 1977 FREETOWN FEETING (REFTEL A), ARE FAVORABLE TO ETHIOPIAN POSITION. MEDIA REPORTS HAVE EMPHASIZED THOSE ASPECTS OF THE FREETOWN AGREEMENT, I.E. RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, INVIOABLITY OF STATE FRONTIERS, NON-

INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EACH OTHER
AND CESSATION OF ALL HOSTILE ACTS AND PROPAGANDA, WHICH
SUPPORT ETHIOPIA'S POSITION. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA OMITTED
ANY REFERENCE TO "EXTRA-AFRICAN POWERS, ESPECIALLY THE
BIG POWERS FROM INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF AFRICAN STATES" WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED IN FREETOWN
ACCORD.

2. LEADER OF ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION, MOFA PERMSEC MAJOR
DAWIT, REPORTEDLY SAID ETHIOPIANS HAD GONE TO DAR ES
SALAAM "TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF FREETOWN ACCORD AND
TO SEEK WAYS TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THOSE PORTIONS NOT YET
COMPLIED WITH." NEWS ARTICLE STATED DELIBERATIONS WERE
MOSTLY BEHIND-THE-SCENE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS. DAWIT EX-
PRESSED SURPRISE THAT THERE HAD BEEN MOVEMENT AWAY FROM
"SPIRIT OF FREETOWN." HE STATED CESSATION OF HOSTILE
PROPAGANDA FROM SUDAN AGAINST ETHIOPIA, AS JOINTLY
AGREED TO IN FREETOWN, WAS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON SOLUTION
OF PROBLEM IN ETHIOPIA'S NORTHERN ADMINISTRA-
TIVE REGION IN FASHION ACCEPTABLE TO SUDAN."

3. DAWIT FURTHER COMMENTED ON ETHIOPIA'S RESERVATIONS
ABOUT DAR ES SALAAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH LISTED
BELOW. HE SAID LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS FAIL TO REINFORCE
FREETOWN ACCORD BECAUSE THEY SUGGEST NECESSITY FOR A
SUMMIT (MENGISTU-NIMEIRY MEETING) BEFORE ASSURING FREE-
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TOWN RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED FULLY. BY NOT IN-
PLEMENTING FREETOWN ACCORDS, SUCH AS STOPPING ANTI-
ETHIOPIAN BROADCASTS BY ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS ON SU-
DANESE GOVT-OWNED RADIO, DAWIT EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT CON-
DUCIVE ATMOSPHERE COULD BE CREATED FOR "HIGHER LEVEL"
MEETING. ETHIOPIA THEREFORE ACCEPTED DAR ES SALAAM RECOM-
MENDATIONS DAWIT SAID, BASED UPON "OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT
CALL FOR CREATION OF CONDUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE MEANS, AMONG
OTHERS, COMPLIANCE WITH FREETOWN RECOMMENDATIONS AND PAR-
TICULARLY CESSATION OF ALL HOSTILE PROPAGANDA."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2797

5. OAU AD HOC MEDIATION COMMISSION ON ETHIOPIA/SUDAN DISPUTE COMPRISED OF ALGERIA, CAMEROON, GABON, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, TOGO, ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA PASSED FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. REAFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS OF THE FREETOWN RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE FORM THE BASIS FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

B. URGES THE PARTIES TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

C. EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CREATION OF THE NECESSARY ATMOSPHERE WHICH WILL ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED PRINCIPLES OF THE FREETOWN RECOMMENDATION.

D. FURTHER EMPHASIZED THE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT ACCORD IN PARTICULAR ON THE EARLY CONVOCAATION OF THE ETHIO/SUDAN JOINT MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

E. BELIEVES THAT THE EARLY AND SPEEDY IMPL-
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MENTATION OF THE FREETOWN RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED BY AN EARLY SUMMIT MEETING OETWEEN THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE TOW COUNTRIES.

F. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION AND APPRECIATION THE PROPOSED INVITATION TO THE TWO HEADS OF STATE BY THE HEAD OF STATE OF SIERRA LEONE (CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC MEDIATION COMMITTEE) IN THE ENDEAVOR TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

G. RECORDS ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE

GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF TANZANIA FOR PROVIDING THE
VENUE AND FACILITIES FOR THE MEETING OF
THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

6. THUS, OAU HAS MANAGED TO INCH MEDIATION EFFORT FORWARD PRIOR TO KHARTOUM SUMMIT AND DEMONSTRATE "PROGRESS" HAS BEEN MADE. IN REALITY, ALL THAT HAS IMPROVED IN ETHIO-SUDAN RELATIONS OVER PAST 6 MONTHS IS REESTABLISHMENT OF AIR LINK, REPATRIATION OF FEW ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS, AND REDUCTION OF LEVEL OF RHETORIC. ETHIOPIANS APPEAR DISCONTENTED WITH SUDANESE FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT AGREE-TO FREETOWN ACCORDS, ESPECIALLY PROPAGANDA AND SUPPORT FOR SUBVERSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA. SUDANESE MAY BE EQUALLY EXASPERATED WITH CONTINUING SOVIET PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND PROSPECT OF NON-ETHIOPIAN INVOLVEMENT IN ERITREA SPILLING OVER INTO SUDAN. THERE CONTINUES TO BE STEADY PRESSURE FOR MENGISTU TO ATTEND KHARTOUM SUMMIT AND HOLD PRIVATE MEETING WITH NIMEIRY, WHOM HE ABHORS, AND FOR WHOM THE FEELING IS REPORTEDLY MUTUAL. THERE IS SPECULATION MEETING WILL IN FACT OCCUR.
MATHERON

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